

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2025, AT 7:00 P.M.
Draft MINUTES**

1. Call to Order (*E. Baiada*)

Adrienne Smythe	Chair
Brian Sokel	Vice Chair
Lee Abberley	Member
Christina Kerper	Member
Robert McGrath	Member
Nick Matteo	Friends of Hillcrest Pond Representative
Neil DiFranco	School District School Board Representative
Charles Wattley	School District Representative
Asher Dahlgren	Student Representative
Susanna Ratsavong	Commissioner Liaison, Ward 2

2. Approval of Minutes from February (*All*)

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee unanimously approved the February minutes.

3. Administrative Report (*E. Baiada*)

The Township is in the midst of preliminary interviews for the Community Relations Media Specialist and Code Enforcement / Fire Marshall roles. The Office Manager, Carol Taylor retired after 42 years of service with Springfield Township. Jamie DePaul will transition into the Office / Communications Manager role.

4. Recreation Report (*E. Baiada*)

Throughout the month of February, programs included Martial Arts, Yoga, Jump Start Sports Basketball, Magarity Tennis Clinic, Speed and Agility Training and the Recreation Basketball League. During the month of February, 361 registrants participated in recreational programming.

Summer Camp registration opened for the Kidz Klubhouse program on March 4 at 9:00 am. The Township received registrations for 167 children within the first 24 hours. Registration for Kindergarten and 6th Grade Transitions will open on March 11 at 9:00 am. Specialty camp registration will open on March 18 at 9:00 am.

Program Coordinator, Brendan Lash, is collecting responses through a Program Interest Survey to better understand community needs for current and future programs. Be sure to complete the survey!

5. Park Report (*E. Baiada*)

- **Bysher Park:** No Issues.
- **Connor James McKelvie Community Park:** No Issues.
- **Henry R. Chiaramonte Park:** No Issues.
- **James A. Cisco Park:** Hillcrest Pond Dredging to be scheduled.
- **James R. Fulginiti Park:** No Issues.
- **Laurel Beech Park:** No Issues.
- **Marlow Field:** No Issues.
- **Mermaid Park:** No Issues.

Christina Kerper shared that the Friends of Mermaid Park is hosting a free park tour on April 26.

- **Sandy Run Park:** No Issues.
- **Veterans Park:** No Issues.
- **Wyndhill Park:** No Issues.
- **Springfield Township Recreation Center A:** No Issues.
- **Springfield Township Recreation Center B:** No Issues.
- **Walnut Avenue Master Site Plan Committee:** PORT Open House March 5 & April 2 at 5:30 pm
- **Recreation Center Advisory Committee:** MKSD Presented to Board of Commissioners in February

6. Old Business (*All*)

None.

7. New Business (All)

Springfield Open Space Native Garden – Veterans Park: Springfield Open Space and Journeywork proposed establishing a 250 sq. ft. native plant garden at Veterans Park in Wyndmoor. This initiative aims to promote ecological landscaping, support pollinators, and enhance community walkability. Veterans Park was selected due to its high visibility, making it an ideal location for community engagement and environmental education. The project's estimated \$3,000 budget, potentially funded by a PA DCNR grant, will cover materials, labor, and initial maintenance. Volunteers and community partnerships will ensure long-term upkeep at no cost to the Township. As part of the initiative, a "Pollinator Palooza" event will educate residents and distribute garden kits. Implementation is set to begin in late 2025, with community planting and events scheduled for May 2026.

The PRAC has voted in favor of this project, contingent upon specific conditions to ensure its sustainability and alignment with Township policies. Springfield Open Space must provide a detailed maintenance plan, as the Township will revert the area to grass if upkeep lapses. The project must remain fully volunteer-driven, with no costs incurred by the Township. While educational signage is permitted, sponsorship logos will not be displayed. Additionally, the grant application must include temporary snow fencing to protect the young plants from animals and foot traffic. Springfield Open Space will bear sole responsibility for the meadow's long-term maintenance. The project will feature an educational meadow behind the Veterans Park monument and an annual "Pollinator Palooza" event to engage residents in environmental conservation efforts.

8. General Public Comment (All)

One resident spoke highly of the Pollinator Palooza event and was in support of the proposal.

9. School District Report (N. DiFranco)

Mr. DiFranco reported that the School District is working on various contracts including administration compensation and education staff. The Middle School project is beginning to stage equipment for the upcoming project including a fitness room. The project is slotted to be completed in phases and will be completed by December 2026.

10. Commissioners' Report (S. Ratsavong)

Commissioner Ratsavong reported on the Recreation Center project presentation by MKSD in February. Additionally, information about the projects on Willow Grove Avenue were summarized in an effort to bring the committee up to date.

11. Call for Adjournment (E. Baiada)

- Next meeting: Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at 7:00 pm